

CALFED BAY-DELTA WATERSHED PROGRAM

BDAC Watershed Work Group Meeting Summary

The Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC) Watershed Work Group met on October 1, 1999, in Sacramento. The BDAC Watershed Work Group (Work Group) was created to address the public's request to have more participation in the CALFED Watershed Program (Watershed Program). The Work Group provides a forum for stakeholders covering a broad geographic area and wide array of interests. Attendees of the Work Group meetings have direct interaction with the Watershed Program's Interagency Watershed Advisory Team (IWAT) and an opportunity to review and comment on Watershed Program draft documents. In addition, the Work Group may provide input to the BDAC on issues related to the Watershed Program.

Introductions

The meeting began with introductions of the meeting participants. A list of attendees (Attachment A) and handouts (Attachment B) is included.

September BDAC Meeting

Work Group co-chairs, Martha Davis (Californians and the Land) and Robert Meacher (Regional Council for Rural Counties/Plumas County Supervisor), along with eight Work Group members developed and presented a comprehensive presentation on watershed management throughout the state at the September BDAC meeting in Red Bluff. The Work Group presenters were:

- ☛ Gary Nakamura (representing Clear Creek/Shasta-Tehama Bioregional Council);
- ☛ Lynn Barris (representing Cherokee Creek);
- ☛ Otis Wollan (representing the American River);
- ☛ Caitlin Cornwall (representing the North Bay watersheds/Sonoma Ecology Center);
- ☛ Jim Cornelius (representing Calaveras County Water District);
- ☛ Nettie Drake (representing Silver/Panoche creeks); and
- ☛ Conner Everts (representing Southern California watersheds).

Eugenia Laychack (CCPDR/CALFED Consultant) thanked the Work Group for their hard work in preparing a thorough presentation. She added that the feedback from the BDAC members was very positive and encouraging. BDAC members are very interested in watershed efforts throughout the state particularly monitoring, and want to be kept up-to-date on the progress of the Watershed Program. The next BDAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 28, 1999, in Davis.

Watershed Legislation - AB730

Steve Fitch (Office of Assembly Member Dickerson) was present to provide an update on the progress of Assembly Bill 730 (AB730). He explained that the Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC), Sierra Nevada Alliance, and members of the Work Group have developed draft concepts for AB730. Assembly Member Dickerson thought it would be best to present these draft concepts to the public for further review before legislative language is developed.

Laurel Ames (Sierra Nevada Alliance) added that the present draft was intentionally left in a rough-draft form to illustrate that the document is a work in progress and open to comments. She added that comments are needed by November 1, 1999. Comments may be provided to Sierra Nevada Alliance, RCRC, or the Watershed Program staff.

A meeting participant asked how AB730 would dovetail with the water bond. Ms. Ames responded that the measures laid out in the water bond are a “one-time fix.” Whereas, AB730 would be an annual program not only for fixing problems, but also maintaining watersheds. It is estimated that approximately \$300 million would be generated annually for the AB730 budget. Other meeting participants inquired about accountability and what constitutes a “broad” watershed groups? Ms Ames explained that there are unanswered questions that still need to be worked out. Some issues will be clarified in the next draft, others will be worked out by the Resources Agency. It was also suggested that a democrat co-sponsor the bill along with republican Assembly Member Dickerson. Mr. Fitch noted that there is room for a co-sponsor and they are investigating this opportunity.

CALFED 1998 Watershed Stewardship Projects Administered by the EPA and NFWF

Sam Ziegler (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) and Cheryl Lovato Niles (National Fish and Wildlife Federation) presented an overview of the CALFED watershed projects that are administered by the EPA and NFWF. Mr. Ziegler explained that 14 watershed projects were selected for 1998 funding at a cost of \$2.8 million. Criteria used for selecting projects included the following: community-based; significant environmental results; consistent with CALFED and related efforts; multiple ecosystem issues; provide for ongoing implementation; monitoring; and applicant’s ability. All but one out of the 14 projects are currently under contract with the EPA. The EPA has asked NFWF to manage the watershed projects over the next three years.

Ms. Lovato Niles stated that the 14 watershed projects can be divided into 3 broad categories: planning, implementation, or both planning and implementation. Nine of the 14 are planning efforts; 3 are implementation; and 2 are considered both. The following is a list of the 14 watershed projects selected for funding:

1. Sulphur Creek Coordinated Resource Management Planning Group
2. Battle Creek Watershed Stewardship
3. Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group Formation
4. South Yuba River Coordinated Watershed Management Plan
5. American River (North and Middle Forks) Integrated Watershed Stewardship Strategy
6. Union School Slough Watershed Improvement Program
7. Watershed Restoration Strategy for the Yolo Bypass
8. Lower Putah Creek Watershed Stewardship Program
9. Petaluma River Watershed Restoration Program
10. Local Watershed Stewardship: Steelhead Trout Plan
11. Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Plan
12. Alhambra Creek Watershed Coordinated Resource Management Planning Program
13. Cold Water Fisheries and Water Quality Element for the State of the Santa Clara Basin Report
14. Merced River Corridor Restoration Plan

Ms. Lovato Niles provided background information on three of the projects: Watershed Restoration Strategy for the Yolo Bypass; Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Plan; and Battle Creek Watershed Stewardship.

Watershed Management Council Forum

Martha Davis reported on the September Watershed Management Council's forum held in Davis. The forum included representatives from three states (Massachusetts, Oregon, and Washington) who presented an overview on how their states address watershed management. There will be a follow-up forum which is tentatively scheduled for November 15, 1999. Lessons learned from the previous forum will be discussed as well as AB730. For further information contact Sari Sommarstrom at sari@sisqtel.net.

A meeting participant commented that there seems to be an overwhelming number of watershed conferences, forums, programs, etc. Concern was raised that efforts are being needlessly duplicated. Ms. Davis informed the group that Mary Nichols is aware of the situation and is attempting to acknowledge all ongoing efforts in order to prevent needless duplication. On a positive note, it is a sign that the public is recognizing the importance of a watershed approach, and the enthusiasm may generate a good deal of duplication in the short-term.

1999 Recommendations for Watershed Projects

John Lowrie (Watershed Program Manager) provided an update on the 1999 recommendations for watershed projects. In July 1999, approximately \$18.7 million in projects were recommended to the CALFED Policy Group as part of the Ecosystem Restoration Program's early restoration projects. The Policy Group concurred with the recommendations, but expressed disappointment in the number of watershed projects. They, therefore, suggested that an additional \$2 million be allocated for watershed projects. At the request of the Policy Group, the Watershed Program staff compiled a set of watershed project recommendations which were presented to the Ecosystem Roundtable and BDAC. The Ecosystem Roundtable suggested that the recommended watershed projects be reviewed by a scientific review panel before being approved for funding. A scientific review panel was compiled and met on September 27 and 28, 1999, to review the watershed projects. The panel concurred with eight of the nine recommended projects. The results of the scientific review panel will now go before the Ecosystem Roundtable on October 13, 1999, the upcoming BDAC meeting on October 28, 1999, and then back to the Policy Group.

In addition, the scientific review panel also made recommendations for fiscal year 2000 projects. Approximately \$13.9 million in projects (all categories) were recommended. Out of this set of recommendations, a total of 5 additional watershed projects were endorsed at a cost of \$2.62 million. The recommendations are posted on CALFED's webpage: <http://calfed.ca.gov> under the Restoration Coordination icon.

Watershed Program Priority Setting

Mr. Lowrie and Dennis Bowker (CALFED Watershed Program Team) provided an update on setting priorities for the Watershed Program. Watershed Program priorities for FY2000 will be drawn from the list of "desired outcomes" in the Watershed Program Plan. In choosing priorities, a list of "considerations" will be factored into the decision-making process. These

considerations include: geographic distribution; relationship to other programs; level of impairment of watershed; ability to leverage funding; status of watershed group, i.e., new or existing; among others.

Mr. Lowrie explained that the Watershed Program staff and Work Group co-chairs will take input from the Work Group to a committee charged to develop FY2000 priorities for the Watershed Program. The committee will be comprised of CALFED staff (including all Common Program managers); Work Group Co-chairs; IWAT; and Maria Rea (Resources Agency). The recommended set of priorities will be presented to the Work Group, then to BDAC, and lastly the Policy Group and CALFED management.

Ms. Davis suggested that the Work Group take a few minutes to brainstorm a list of suggested items to be considered when setting Watershed Program priorities. The following are the results of the brainstorm:

- adequate funding
- water quality
- erosion control
- volunteer corps
- reduction in contaminants in fisheries downstream
- improve local capacity to deal with regulatory compliance
- habitat
- public awareness and education
- bridging gaps between interest groups
- means to share information - technology transfer
- stewardship via participation in water quality/watershed projects
- increase capacity/infrastructure of local groups
- public outreach
- source protection
- geographic scope (projects should exist throughout the state)
- time value of water
- help local groups gain protection for key lands
- demonstrate success/benefits of local programs
- monitoring - how to track changes in the watershed
- assessment of limiting factors
- CMARP linkage
- safe harbor needs

Next Work Group Meeting

The next Work Group meeting was scheduled for Friday, November 5, 1999. The meeting will be held at Preservation Park in Oakland.

Name	Affiliation
Ames, Laurel	Sierra Nevada Alliance
Andalis, Carla	Californians and the Land
Barris, Lynn	Friends of the River
Beeman, Howard	Interested Citizen
Bolland, Dave	Association of California Water Agencies
Bowker, Dennis	Napa County Resource Conservation District
Bradt, Josh	Urban Creeks Council
Carrico, Loretta	Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group
Cooper-Carter, Kristin	California State University Chico
Cornelius, James	Calaveras County Water District
Cornwall, Caitlin	Sonoma Ecology Center
Coulter, Ken	State Water Resources Control Board
Crooks, Bill	City of Sacramento
Dale, Richard	Sonoma Ecology Center
DuBois, Bill	California Farm Bureau
Fitch, Steve	Office of Assembly Member Dick Dickerson
Garland, Judith	East Bay Municipal Utilities District
Gibbs, Suzanne	Big Chico Watershed Alliance
Guy, David	Northern California Water Association
Harthorn, Allen	Butte Creek
Heiman, Dennis	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Henly, Russ	California Department of Forestry
Keller, Mary	Sutter County
Kiger, Luana	Natural Resources Conservation Service
Kinney, Pat	Kinnetic Labs
Knecht, Mary Lee	Jones & Stokes
Kraemer, Tom	Interested Citizen
Lossius, Bob	Lake County
Lovato-Niles, Cheryl	National Fish and Wildlife Federation
Lowrie, John	CALFED Watershed Program
Mannion, Kathy	Western Growers Association
Meacher, Robert	BDAC/RCRC/Plumas County Supervisor
Nelson, Earl	Western Area Power Administration
Newlin, Vickie	Butte County
Pye, Katy	Yolo County Resource Conservation District
Reeves, Christopher	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Reynolds, Rogene	San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Sime, Fraser	Department of Water Resources - Red Bluff
Sitts, Rick	Metropolitan Water District
Smith, Cheryl	UC Davis - Center for Ecological Health Research
Standish-Lee, Peter	URS Greiner-Woodward-Clyde
Terry, Melinda	California Forestry Association
Thomsen, Craig	UC Davis
Toline, C. Anna	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Traub, Cori	Clean Water Action
Tupper, Julie	U.S. Forest Service
Troyan, Jerry	Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
Venus, Thomas	Kennedy/Jenks Consultants
Wehri, Tom	California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
Werder, Carl	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Wisheropp, Paul	URS Greiner-Woodward-Clyde
Wong, Arlene	Pacific Institute
Ziegler, Sam	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Meeting Handouts

- ✓ Meeting Agenda
- ✓ Background Information on CALFED Watershed Stewardship Projects Awarded 1998, Administered by NFWF and EPA.
- ✓ Draft Concepts for AB730: California Watershed Restoration and Management Act
- ✓ Highlights of Proposed Watershed Legislation
- ✓ BDAC Watershed Work Group Meeting Summary - August 20, 1999
- ✓ BDAC Watershed Work Group Meeting Participant, August 19, 1998 - August 20, 1999